

# "The Shadow of a Great Rock"

By HOMER A. KENT

Professor at Grace Theological Seminary, Winona Lake, Ind.



Prof. Kent

"And a man shall be as an hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land" (Isa. 32:2).

To whom else could the lovely figures of this text refer but to our Lord Jesus Christ? He is the God-man prophesied by the prophet to come into the world to be all to men that they need. There is a very definite sense in which this prophecy of Isaiah has to do with a time yet future when Christ shall come again. But surely there is much in it which has been applicable to the saints of God all down through the years and is precious applicable today.

## I. Christ Is an Hiding Place from the Wind.

When the stormy blasts sweep over the soul the Lord Jesus is our refuge. The wind in Scripture has different meanings. Sometimes it signifies judgment. As in Eph. 4:14 it is illustrative of false doctrine, the wind of Satan. There are Satanic winds blowing today which seek to blow the soul into destruction, but thank God, there is a hiding place from the wind. "A man shall be a hiding place from the wind." That Man is Christ Jesus. In Him there is a complete refuge from every stormy blast of judgment or Satanic doctrine that may come.

## II. Christ Is Also a Covert from the Tempest.

Many are the tempests through which even the children of God must pass. The Psalmist David at one time passed through a terrific tempest. It is seen in the 142d Psalm. He was in a cave hiding from Saul who was seeking his very life. Out of desperation he cried, "I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me." But then he flung himself upon God and said, "Thou art my refuge and my portion."

Let us do like David in the midst of the tempests of life. Sometimes it takes a tempest or two to teach us what a wonderful hiding place we have in Christ. He can speak peace to any tempest that may be endangering the little ship of your life if you will let Him.

## III. Again, Christ Is as Rivers of Water in a Dry Place.

No doubt there will be a remarkable literal fulfillment of this part of our text when He comes again.

But it also has a blessed spiritual fulfillment in barren hearts today. We remember how our Lord gave refreshing waters to the weary woman by Sychar's well. He has done the same for myriads of thirsty hearts since that day. Christ said, "If any man thirst, let him come unto Me and drink" (Jn. 7:37). The unregenerate heart is like the Sahara Desert. Nothing grows there. It is dry and forbidding—a place of death. The regenerate heart is like the Nile Valley which is watered by a great river which makes it a fertile garden hundreds of miles in length. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Water of Life which satisfies and makes fruitful.

## IV. Finally, the Text Before Us Presents Christ as the Shadow of a Great Rock in a Weary Land.

The eye of the prophet pierces the centuries and he sees a weary world: a world weary of judgment, of war, of human government; a world desperately in need of rest and refuge. Then he sees the shadow of a great Rock which appears to bring satisfaction for the need. That Rock is Christ. Many times over Christ is pictured as a Rock in the Scriptures. Isaiah 26:4 speaks of Him as the Rock of Ages. He is the Rock upon which the church is being built. Daniel sees Him as the Stone cut out of the mountain without hands which smashes Gentile dominion and becomes as a great mountain filling the whole earth.

That Rock one day was smitten for a sinful world. It endured the wind and storm of God's righteous judgment that we might not have to endure it. It was cleft in order that in its shelter we might have refuge. Are we singing with Augustus Toplady?

"Rock of Ages, cleft for me,  
Let me hide myself in thee;  
Let the water and the blood,  
From thy wounded side which flowed,  
Be of sin the double cure,  
Save from wrath and make me pure."

If the reader of these words is not a Christian, may the desire of your heart be, as expressed by the Psalmist in the 61st Psalm, "Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I."

## "LOOKING INTO"

By LEONA DAWSON COLE

There is a starry balcony  
Encircling the skies,  
Where angels view the Bridal Hall  
With envy in their eyes.

—1 Peter 1:12.